

**PCT**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**January 8, 1997**

**Topics of Discussion**

**Agenda Overview and Changes in Calendar- Judy Kelly/Steve Yaeger**

- Water Quality Workshop set for February 4.
- Storage/Conveyance Workshop not on February 4. Date to be determined.
- PCT moved to Tuesdays on February 11 and March 11; after March, back to Wednesday.
- PCT Ad Hoc on Water Quality, January 23.

**Update on Flood and Levee Situation**

- USCE PL-99 work on Delta island levees - Lynn O'Leary
- DWR coordination and monitoring efforts - Kathy Kelly

**Update on the Five-Year Budget Plan - Steve Yaeger**

- Overview of the Proposed Fiscal Year 1998 Program Activities and Cost Estimate.
- Proposed FY 98 program has been reviewed by CALFED Management Team.
- Potential State funding sources used to match potential Federal share.
- Appreciate all the comments made by the agencies.
- Once the actual Federal dollars are known, will work on State match and then stakeholder funding.
- Amount of Federal funds may be known by the second week in February.

**Permit Coordination Overview - Frank Wernette**

- CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Streamlined Environmental Process.
- Focusing on early implementation ecosystem restoration projects, like Category III and Prop 204.
- Regulatory Steering Team oversees the process.
- Environmental Team ("Permit Central") responsible for environmental documentation and permitting for a specific project or program.
- Regulatory Team responsible for interagency coordination, permitting, mitigation measures, monitoring requirements and biological opinions.
- Intent is to minimize the adverse impacts on a project well enough to obtain a negative declaration or FONSI.
- Team to set up broad programmatic process.
- Funding for agency regulatory people is needed.

**Technical Teams to the Ecosystem Restoration Team - Cindy Darling**

- CALFED Management Team is the final Category III projects decision maker.
- BDAC (Stakeholders) provides advice to the CALFED Policy Group.
- The Ecosystem Round Table (ERT) (Stakeholders) is a subcommittee of BDAC.
- The CALFED staff provides input to the ERT.

- The Technical teams for the Sacramento River, San Joaquin River, Delta, North Bay and Water Quality provide input to the staff on priority habitat and species that should be emphasized in Category III projects.

**EIR/S Outline - Wendy Halverson Martin**

- Technical reports will present detailed programmatic analyses.
- Main document will summarize the results of the technical reports.
- Agency staff need to focus on review of the technical reports.
- Geographic regions used to help organize reports.
- Common Programs and preferred alternative descriptions.
- Organization of resource categories.
- Comparison of alternatives to No Action and Existing Conditions.
- Programmatic approach and level of detail.

**Program Issues for PCT Consideration-Judy Kelly**

- Issues discussion papers are being developed by Program staff for PCT consideration
- All issues come to PCT before they go to BDAC or CALFED Management.
- Program staff are addressing issues at each Program managers meeting on Mondays.

**Storage and Conveyance Refinement Process-Stein Buer**

- Spreadsheet, DWRSIM model run update.
- Descriptive inventory of storage and conveyance options.
- Pre-feasibility and cost estimates are underway.

**Watershed Policy - Rick Woodard**

- Other Agencies have established roles in watershed management.
- CALFED role to coordinate and integrate the solutions to Bay-Delta on large scale.
- Organize activities on region-wide basis, fully coordinated with existing programs.
- Two levels of watershed management activities.

**CALFED Management and Policy Meetings - Sharon Gross**

- Fish Screen Issues
- Implementation Agreement
- Cost-Share Agreement
- Primary PCT liaisons will receive mailouts that are sent to CALFED Management team.

**Next PCT Meeting: Tuesday, February 11, at 9 a.m., Room 1131**

## Summary of Key Discussion Points

### Update on the Five-Year Budget Plan - Steve Yaeger

1. Kathy Kelly asked who will be leading the charge to get the funds appropriated from the President's Budget. Probably will be the stakeholders.
2. George Barns asked if, with all the attention on repairing present levee breaks, will levee repair be coordinated on a statewide basis, and is CALFED assisting in that effort.

### Permit Coordination Overview - Frank Wernette

1. Concern was expressed that the key to making the process work is funding the agency regulatory staff.
2. Mike Thabault expressed concern that even though the process is designed to streamline and get the application through on the first try, would still have extensive staff requirements from the regulatory agencies. Still have limited Federal staff. Hard to see the interface between the teams and the agency regulatory people.
3. Pete Chadwick suggested that the Program take a programmatic approach to a group of projects. Then the teams could quickly review individual projects in that group.
4. Jean Elder suggests the agency people be involved in all teams, but could use outside contractors hired by the agencies do the bulk of the work.
5. Mike Thabault suggests that a tracking mechanism be implemented to follow the status of all projects to ensure they are covered by the programmatic process.
6. Mike Ford expressed concern that the process is only focused on early implementation of ecosystem projects: what about long term, and the other resources areas like water supply and water quality.
7. Steve Yaeger--Trying the process out on early implementation projects such as Category III. If successful may try on later projects. Water Quality, Levees, and Water Supply may have some projects that fit into the programmatic groups.
8. Bellory Fong was concerned that outside stakeholders review the process. Steve Yaeger--Will keep in-house until all agencies have a chance to review and, if it goes forward, an agency group would probably submit the concept.
9. **ACTION: PCT to have comments on concept to CALFED by January 17.**

### Technical Teams to the Ecosystem Restoration Team - Cindy Darling

1. Mike Thabault concerned the PCT review the recommendations from subcommittees on Category III before they are submitted to ERT or BDAC.
2. **ACTION: Send PCT list of last round Category III projects that were selected.**

### EIR/S Outline - Wendy Halverson Martin

1. Carolyn Yale concerned that the EIS/R outline is structured to show that the only significant differences in alternatives are in storage and conveyance. Will storage and conveyance be definitive?
2. Steve Yaeger--Program will be definitive in programmatic way. Common programs will meld into the alternatives. Common programs will go through an adaption to adjust to the S/C options.

3. Mike Thabault concerned the ERPP needs to be consistent with purpose and need statement and the program elements are separate and would go forward separately.
4. Rick Breitenbach--All the elements go forward in an interrelated way, each adjusted to make maximum use of synergy with other elements. Have to consider all integrated elements (levees, water quality, water supply, ecosystem) at the same time.
5. Mike Thabault--Changes in common programs need to be tied back to goals of that program and the other programs they affect.
6. Jean Elder concerned that it be easy to find the total impacts of an alternative on the total system.
7. Kathy Kelly concerned that the Bay-Delta geographic region may not be described well by the legal Delta.
8. Pete Chadwick suggested that there may need to be two regions to describe Bay-Delta area.
9. Mike Thabault concerned it may be difficult to cross reference information between tables and geographical regions. May need tables to guide reader from summary conclusion to detailed information on which it was based. Resource agency needs to see the total net effect on the resource.
10. Jim Monroe--Need a summary of overall effects of an alternative on the total Program. Should be more definitive than a "+/-" table. Need to make sure things don't get lost in the multiple layers of information.
11. Carolyn Yale--Will EIS/R document represent the detail of the preferred program or is there a separate document? Are there going to be separate documents for assurances, financial, etc.?
12. Carolyn Yale--Are all the Program elements at the same level of detail, objectives, targets, etc. Need to have the same terminology.
13. Mike Thabault--On storage, need at least a level of detail so the agencies can make an environmental decision. Need to know general locations to know terrestrial impacts.
14. Jim Monroe--May have to name example reservoir sites to demonstrate range of effects. Need sufficient detail to inform decision makers and to reasonably inform interested stakeholders.
15. **ACTION: Comments on four questions due to CALFED January 17.**

#### **Program Issues for PCT Consideration-Judy Kelly**

1. Liz Howard concerned that the PCT members be involved in the generation of the issues discussion paper, not just review.
2. **ACTION: PCT members who are interested in a particular issue can attend the program team meeting where it is being discussed.**

#### **Watershed Policy - Rick Woodard**

1. Frank Wernette doesn't see the difference between levels 1 and 2. Need to clarify.
2. Pete Chadwick--The ERPP solution applies to the total watershed.
3. Liz Howard--Need to clarify what scientific investigation means.
4. **ACTION: Comments due to CALFED January 17.**